PATENT
144002-2001

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows.

In the Claims

1.(Previously presented) A method for treating hepatitis C in an HIV-negative patient in need thereof comprising administering ribavirin (RBV) or RBV and interferon-alpha (IFN), wherein the improvement comprises administering Erythropoietin (EPO) concomitantly or sequentially or via co-administration with the RBV or with the RBV and IFN and the RBV is administered at a maximum effective dosage wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) A method for treating hepatitis C (HCV) and for treating ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia employed in treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof by administering erythropoietin to the patient subcutaneously for at least about six months wherein the ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia is a result of treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof with a maximum effective dosage of ribavirin wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the hepatitis C is genotype 2 and/or 3.

6. (Previously presented) A method for treating hepatitis C (HCV) and for treating ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia employed in treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof by administering erythropoietin to the patient subcutaneously for at least about 12 months wherein the ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia is a result of treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof with a maximum effective dosage of ribavirin wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the hepatitis C is genotype 1 and/or 4.

8. (Previously presented) A method for treating hepatitis C in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering ribavirin and interferon-alpha wherein the improvement comprises co-administering to the patient subcutaneously, at a pre-determined effective amount, an Erythropoietin liquid preparation wherein the ribavirin is administered in a maximum effective dosage wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day.

9. (Original) The method for treating hepatitis C comprising administering ribavirin and interferon-alpha wherein the improvement as claimed in claim 8 comprises administering to patients subcutaneously at a weekly dose of about 10,000 to 70,000 units of erythropoietin.

10. (Original) The method for treating hepatitis C comprising administering ribavirin and interferon-alpha wherein the improvement as claimed in claim 8 comprises

administering to patients subcutancously at a weekly dose of about 20,000 to 60,000 units of erythropoietin.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the patient is HIV negative.

12-26. (Canceled)